

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Community Challenge Grants (OCCG) of the California Department of Health Services (DHS) announces the availability of grant funds for the CCG Program through this Request for Application (RFA). In Governor Gray Davis' proposed State Budget for FY 1999-2000, \$20 million has been included for the Community Challenge Grant (CCG) Program. It is anticipated that the funds will be available for a 12-month project period covering fiscal year (FY) 1999-2000 (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000). Grant agreements will be extended for a subsequent two-year period if the CCG Program is re-authorized and appropriation of funding is achieved.

The primary focus of the CCG Program is to promote community-based partnerships for the development and implementation of effective strategies to prevent teenage and unwed pregnancy and fatherlessness resulting from these pregnancies. The CCG Program was established as part of the Budget Act of 1996. Since 1997, the CCG Program has been appropriated \$20 million annually to provide 111 grants to new and existing private organizations and local governments to implement innovative and relevant community-based prevention strategies. Per the authorizing statute, the CCG Program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 1999. However, the legislative re-authorization of the CCG Program is currently in progress. A copy of the CCG statute [Chapter 197, Statutes of 1996, Sections 18993-18993.9 of the Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code] is attached (Appendix A).

This RFA contains information about the CCG Program, application requirements, procedures and other relevant information.

A. PARTNERSHIP FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTING

The CCG Program is a component of the Partnership for Responsible Parenting (PRP), which is a multi-faceted initiative, designed to alleviate problems associated with teen and unwed pregnancy and fatherlessness. Governor Davis is committed to preventing teenage and unwed pregnancies, and has proposed \$52.8 million to maintain the Partnership for Responsible Parenting. The mission of this initiative is to:

- Raise public awareness about and involvement in solutions to the problem of teenage and unwed pregnancies;
- Identify and support community driven solutions in cities and towns throughout the State;
- Send a strong message to adult men in California that having sex with girls under 18 is a crime and they will be prosecuted; and
- Expand and strengthen statewide efforts to link mentors with at-risk youth.

The Partnership for Responsible Parenting Initiative is made up of four components:

1. COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM

The CCG Program promotes community-based partnerships that aim to reduce teenage and unwed pregnancy and absentee fatherhood and promote responsible parenting and the involvement of fathers in the economic, social and emotional support of their children. Since 1997, the CCG Program has supported 111 local projects located in over 40 counties. The Governor's proposed FY 1999-2000 Budget includes \$20 million for grants to begin a new cycle of local projects. Because government can best promote solutions to these problems in partnership with local communities, parents and families, the public sector funds allocated for the CCG are mandated to be matched by private funds from local businesses, foundations, community groups, and others to reach as many Californians as possible.

2. MEDIA CAMPAIGN

To issue the call to action to California's communities, the Governor's proposed FY 1999-2000 Budget includes \$9.3 million to be used for a multi-media public awareness campaign. This campaign is designed to educate Californians about the problems surrounding teenage and unwed pregnancy and fatherlessness and to engage public efforts to promote responsible parenting. Furthermore, this media campaign will build on the existing efforts to change community norms by educating the public and sending specific messages such as promoting abstinence, male responsibility, parental involvement, and participation in mentoring programs.

3. PROSECUTION OF STATUTORY RAPE

Established in 1996, this grant program provides financial support to county district attorneys for the prosecution of statutory rape cases. For FY 1999-2000, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning will continue to receive \$8.4 million for its statewide "Statutory Rape Vertical Prosecution" program which has strengthened law enforcement's ability to prosecute adult men who have sex with teen girls.

4. MENTORING AT-RISK YOUTH

Approximately \$15.1 million have been appropriated in the Governor's proposed FY 1999-2000 Budget to support mentoring programs in various state departments. The mentoring programs are designed to assist at-risk youth to become productive members of society while reducing juvenile crime, teenage pregnancy, gang association, and the school dropout rate. Approximately 60,000 at-risk youth are currently on waiting lists for mentors.